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Message Text

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66
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 SCI-06 CEQ-02

EPA-04 COA-02 IO-14 CG-00 SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /137 W
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R 202152Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2134
INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER UNN

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2761

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SENV, CA
SUBJECT: CANADIAN OIL SHIPMENTS THROUGH JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT

1. IN COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD NOVEMBER 19, THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE BETWEEN NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY MP HOWARD (B.C.) AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DAVIS REGARDING TANKER USE OF THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA. HOWARD NOTED HE DID NOT WANT CANADA TO HAVE A DOUBLE STANDARD, CLEARLY REFERRING TO PLANNED CANADIAN OIL SHIPMENTS THROUGH THE STRAIT AND CANADIAN OBJECTIONS TO USE BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE STRAIT FOR ALASKAN OIL DELIVERIES.

2. BEGIN TEXT
MR. FRANK HOWARD (SKEENA): MR. SPEAKER, I WISH TO DIRECT A QUESTION TO THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT. INASMUCH AS THE MOVEMENT OF OIL BY TANKER THROUGH THE GULF OF GEORGIA AND THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA FROM WEST COAST PORTS WILL POSE THE THREAT OF SERIOUS ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE IF AN OIL SPILL TAKES PLACE, WILL THE MINISTER ASSURE THE HOUSE THAT ANY OIL TANKERS USED TO TRANSPORT OIL FROM A WEST COAST PORT TO ANY PORT ON THE EAST COAST WILL BE REQUIRED AT THE VERY LEAST TO MEET THE STANDARDS FOR OIL TANKERS AGREED TO AT THE
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RECENTLY CONCLUDED IMCO CONFERENCE, ABOUT WHICH THE

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MINISTER SPOKE SO HIGHLY AND GLOWINGLY?

HON. JACK DAVIS (MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT): YES, MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD BE GLAD TO GIVE THE HOUSE THAT ASSURANCE. I MIGHT ALSO POINT OUT THAT IF OIL DOES MOVE FROM THE WEST COAST TO THE EAST COAST IT WILL BE IN QUANTITIES WHICH ARE INTERIM ONLY AND MINUTE IN RELATION TO THE VAST QUANTITIES OF OIL PROPOSED TO BE MOVED FROM ALASKA TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

MR. HOWARD: THAT IS PRECISELY WHY I ASKED THE QUESTION. I DID NOT WANT US TO HAVE A DOUBLE STANDARD, ONE APPLYING TO OURSELVES AND ANOTHER TO SOMEBODY ELSE.

END OF TEXT.

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